

The Green Parking Lot

The title is not referring to the color of a parking lot. Instead, a green parking lot addresses storm water management needs using simple natural systems and encourages infiltration. This environmentally friendlier product is being used increasingly around the country. Permeable pavers can reduce runoff by 90 percent, as compared to traditional asphalt pavement. Permeable pavement include paving stones, grid systems, porous asphalt and porous concrete.

Costs associated with installing permeable pavers can be twice as much as traditional asphalt pavement. However, when considering annual maintenance costs, the permeable pavers come out ahead. Permeable pavers can decrease project costs by reducing or eliminating some drainage and retention systems and maximizes groundwater recharge and/or storage.



Permeable pavers have been used in fire lanes around buildings, over-flow parking lots, and pedestrian walk ways. Using permeable pavers instead of traditional pavement can reduce high temperatures during summer months. Pavers are also aesthetically pleasing to pedestrians and clients.

Approximately 40 percent of Americans surveyed believe waterways are still too polluted for fishing or swimming. Numerous studies indicate that storm water runoff often contains a toxic combination of oils, pesticides, metals, nutrients, and sediments, and is the primary source of pollutants in surface waters. Designing and constructing parking lots in a manner that addresses storm water pollution can help clean up surface water.

For more information on permeable pavers, go to www.uni-groupusa.org/.

New Hampshire Offering Loans for Energy Efficiencies

The State of New Hampshire has teamed up with Ocean National Bank to make discounted loans available for energy-saving projects at New Hampshire businesses. This innovative loan program will help businesses make structural improvements and equipment purchases that reduce energy consumption.

Ocean National is offering the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Business Loan in collaboration with the New Hampshire Business Resource Center, a part of the New Hampshire Division of Economic Development. The program was announced re-

cently at a State House press conference.

The loans are available for energy-saving projects such as energy-efficient lighting systems, variable frequency drives, premium efficiency motors, energy-efficient HVAC systems and renewable energy systems, including custom energy-saving measures.

Terms include an interest rate of prime minus 1 percent, floating, for a maximum of seven years, subject to credit approval and the findings of an energy efficiency review. The rate is targeted to energy loans of \$10,000 or more.

To find out more about the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Business Loan and how to apply, please contact the New Hampshire Business Resource Center at (603) 271-2591 or visit online at www.nheconomy.com/.



New Hampshire Award Winners

Concord Hospital and Littleton Regional Hospital were named winners of this year's Partner for Change Award from Hospitals for a Healthy Environment (H2E), a non-profit group jointly founded by the American Hospital Association, the Environmental Protection Agency, Healthy Care Without Harm and the American Nurses Association. The Partner for Change Award recognizes hospitals that have made significant and sustainable progress reducing waste, preventing pollution and eliminating mercury.



Henri Wante (center) accepts the Hospital for a Healthy Environment's Partner for Change Award on behalf of Littleton Regional Hospital.

Portsmouth Regional Hospital, Parkland Medical Center and Littleton Regional Hospital were the recipients of "Making Medicine Mercury Free" from H2E. This award recognizes the success of virtually eliminating mercury from the hospital and developing policies to sustain elimination.

The New Hampshire Pollution Prevention Program was awarded the H2E Champion for Change Award for the second year in a row. The award recognizes the NHPPP for its continued efforts to help eliminate mercury use and promote the reduction of waste at health care facilities. Since 2001, the NHPPP, in partnership with the New Hampshire Hospital Association Foundation for Healthy Communities, has coordinated the NH Hospitals for a Healthy Environment, which meets quarterly to discuss waste reduction opportunities, environmental compliance improvements, and environmentally preferable purchasing options. Through NHPPP efforts, it has been estimated that almost 600 pounds of mercury has been removed from New Hampshire healthcare facilities.

The Alice Peck Day Health Systems (APD) of Lebanon received the prestigious OSHA SHARP award. APD joins an elite group of five organizations statewide to be honored by OSHA's "Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program."

SHARP certification is awarded to organizations having implemented exceptional workplace safety and health programs. Requirements include a complete on-site hazard identification survey; sustained lost-workday, injury and illness rate and total recordable case rate significantly below the national average; and confidential employee interviews to confirm the organization's commitment to worker safety and health. The award grants APD a two-year exemption from routine OSHA inspections.

Increasing Water Efficiency

According to the US Geological Survey, 30 percent of water consumed in the United States is devoted to outdoor uses. When watering the lawn around your building or home, consider the weather. Weather-based irrigation controllers use local climate data to provide the right amount of water to keep landscaped areas looking beautiful. With proper programming, weather-based controllers can reduce water use by an average of 20 percent compared to conventional equipment, potentially saving over 11 billion gallons of water per year across the US – enough to fill 18,000 Olympic-size swimming pools. Additional information about water-efficient landscaping can be found at www.epa.gov/owm/water-efficiency/final_final.pdf.



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New Look for WasteLines

Across the country, P2 programs are switching to electronic newsletter formats to reduce paper and to save on printing costs. NHPPP is also making this transition with a paperless *WasteLines*. To receive *WasteLines* electronically, email us at nhppp@des.state.nh.us. We would also like to receive your topic ideas.